

In 1756 the suggestion of Governor de la Jonquière that the French should become masters of Chouéguen was carried into effect by no less a person than Montcalm, who afterwards fell at Quebec. He assaulted the English fort at Chouéguen, and captured it; but the act was speedily avenged by the English general Bradstreet, who took the stronghold of Fort Frontenac itself in 1758.

The crisis was now at hand. In this same year, 1758, the Governor-General, de Vaudreuil, in a despatch to the Minister of Marine at Paris, M. de Messiac, writes:—"If the English should make their appearance at Toronto, I have given orders to burn it at once, and fall back on Niagara." Then in the following year, 1759, we have the last reference to Toronto in the French despatches. After stating that he had ordered down what reinforcements he could from Illinois and Detroit, for the protection of fort Niagara, M. de Vaudreuil writes to the same Minister at Paris, that, "Those forces would proceed to the relief of Niagara, should the enemy wish to besiege it; and I have in like manner," he says, "sent orders to Toronto, to collect the Mississagas and other nations and forward them to Niagara."

On the 25th of July, 1759, the fortress of Niagara fell, and Quebec followed on the 13th of September, in the same year. Not many days before the 25th of July, watchers on the ramparts of the beleaguered Niagara could perceive a column of smoke ascending from the far horizon in the direction of Toronto. This would be an indication that the orders of M. de Vaudreuil had been obeyed, and that in a few hours, all that the English or any one else approaching the spot, would ever again see of that trading-post, would be simply a confused mass of charred timber with a low chimney-stack of coarse brick surrounded by a shattered flooring of broad flagstones from the adjoining beach. So ended Fort Rouillé, Fort Toronto, or the old French fort, whichever we may choose to call it. In 1788, Captain Gother Mann was able to trace remains of five build-